



Legend: Definition Field Listing Rank Order			
Introduction	Pacific Ocean	Top of Page	
Background:	The Pacific Ocean is the largest of the world's five oceans (followed by the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean). Strategically important access waterways include the La Perouse, Tsugaru, Tsushima, Taiwan, Singapore, and Torres Straits. The decision by the International Hydrographic Organization in the spring of 2000 to delimit a fifth ocean, the Southern Ocean, removed the portion of the Pacific Ocean south of 60 degrees south.		
Geography	Pacific Ocean	<u>Top of Page</u>	
Location:	body of water between the Southern Ocean, Asia	a, Australia, and the Western Hemisphere	
Geographic coordinates:	0 00 N, 160 00 W		
Map references:	Political Map of the World		
Area:	total: 155.557 million sq km note: includes Bali Sea, Bering Sea, Bering Strait, Coral Sea, East China Sea, Gulf of Alaska, Gulf of Tonkin, Philippine Sea, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk, South China Sea, Tasman Sea, and other tributary water bodies		
Area - comparative:	about 15 times the size of the US; covers about 2 total land area of the world	28% of the global surface; larger than the	
Coastline:	135,663 km		
Climate:	planetary air pressure systems and resultant wind the south and east; trade winds and westerly wind seasonal fluctuations; tropical cyclones (hurrican October and affect Mexico and Central America; uniformity to be much less pronounced in the east latitude in the North Pacific Ocean; the western I during the summer months, when moisture-lader and a dry season during the winter months, when back to the ocean; tropical cyclones (typhoons) in to December	ds are well-developed patterns, modified by nes) may form south of Mexico from June to continental influences cause climatic stern and western regions at the same Pacific is monsoonal - a rainy season occurs a winds blow from the ocean over the land, a dry winds blow from the Asian landmass	

l errain:	surface currents in the northern Pacific are dominated by (broad circular system of currents) and in the southern P water gyre; in the northern Pacific, sea ice forms in the E winter; in the southern Pacific, sea ice from Antarctica re October; the ocean floor in the eastern Pacific is domina the western Pacific is dissected by deep trenches, includit world's deepest	acific by a counterclockwise, cool- Bering Sea and Sea of Okhotsk in eaches its northernmost extent in ted by the East Pacific Rise, while
Elevation extremes:	lowest point: Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench -16 highest point: sea level 0 m	0,924 m
Natural resources:	oil and gas fields, polymetallic nodules, sand and gravel	aggregates, placer deposits, fish
Natural hazards:	surrounded by a zone of violent volcanic and earthquake the "Pacific Ring of Fire"; subject to tropical cyclones (t from May to December (most frequent from July to Octomay form south of Mexico and strike Central America at (most common in August and September); cyclical El N the equatorial Pacific, influencing weather in the Wester Pacific; ships subject to superstructure icing in extreme the persistent fog in the northern Pacific can be a maritime by	yphoons) in southeast and east Asia ober); tropical cyclones (hurricanes) and Mexico from June to October ino/La Nina phenomenon occurs in the Hemisphere and the western morth from October to May;
current issues:	endangered marine species include the dugong, sea lion, oil pollution in Philippine Sea and South China Sea	sea otter, seals, turtles, and whales;
Geography - note:	the major chokepoints are the Bering Strait, Panama Car Strait; the Equator divides the Pacific Ocean into the No Pacific Ocean; dotted with low coral islands and rugged Pacific Ocean	rth Pacific Ocean and the South
Economy	Pacific Ocean	<u>Top of Page</u>
Economy - overview:	The Pacific Ocean is a major contributor to the world econations its waters directly touch. It provides low-cost seasest, extensive fishing grounds, offshore oil and gas fie for the construction industry. In 1996, over 60% of the water Pacific Ocean. Exploitation of offshore oil and gas reservole in the energy supplies of the US, Australia, NZ, Chirecovering offshore oil and gas, combined with the wide 1985, has led to fluctuations in new drillings.	a transportation between East and lds, minerals, and sand and gravel world's fish catch came from the ves is playing an ever-increasing na, and Peru. The high cost of
Transportation	Pacific Ocean	Top of Page

Ports and terminals: Transportation - note:	(Philippines), Pusan (South Korea), San Francisco (US), Seattle (US), Shanghai (China), Singapore, Sydney (Australia), Vladivostok (Russia), Wellington (NZ), Yokohama (Japan)	
Transnational Issues	Pacific Ocean	<u>Top of Page</u>
Disputes - international:	some maritime disputes (see littoral states)	
	This page was last updated on 19 June 2008	